

OLD HOME DAYS MINUTES AUGUST 5, 2015

The Old Home Days Committee met on August 5, 2015 in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance were: Kristin Harrington, Patty Williams, Lori Bliss Hill, Marge Carr, Shirley Green, Stephanie Hill, Nancy Smith, Alisa Bonnette, and Meredith Smith, Chair.

Various events which directly involved OHD committee were discussed, beginning with the parade. All agreed it was a huge success. Suggestions included possibly reversing the parade route to terminate at Huse Park, the need for more saw horses and traffic assistants, and possibly getting the Lions Club involved. Another suggestion was to change the time of the parade to 11 AM to make the post-parade picnic coincide with lunchtime. The picnic following the parade was really too early for lunch so not many people participated. Other parade suggestions included improved signage and possibly having a float in the Memorial Day Parade to call attention to OHD. Nancy Smith also submitted a comprehensive list of suggestions for future parades.

The suggestion was also made that all events should be focused in and around Huse Park in the "downtown" area to make events more centralized. However most felt that it would be better to include a map in the program and have Saturday events on the Huse Park side of the lake and the Sunday events (which usually include the Museum) on the Enfield Center side of the lake.

The dance was the next event discussed. It was noted that the Enfield Center Town House has some serious structural issues and may not be available for next year's dance. Lori reported a loss in sale of food and beverage at the dance and post parade picnic. A suggestion was made that an alternative might be to have popcorn and water available at the dance and include it in the cost in the budget for the dance. It was also mentioned that by adding a dollar sign to the dance listing (for food to be purchased), some people may have thought there was a charge for the dance. All who attended the dance felt it was a success and that the Center Town House was a wonderful venue for the dance. Jamie Orr and line dancing was also an excellent addition. Many people attending the dance had never been in the Town House before and were impressed with what a lovely building it is.

Shirley Green reported that the Ice Cream Social served over 200 sundaes and that all three pre-schools and day cares participated with games for the kids. Beth Felix once again did the very popular face painting.

The craft fair was deemed a success and that it was an event to build on, especially focusing on demonstrating craftspeople with traditional crafts. The question was raised as to whether the participating craftspeople should be limited to Enfield residents. All felt it should be open to people from throughout the Upper Valley region to insure quality and a broad cross section of crafts. The Museum location is an ideal setting for the craft fair, especially in conjunction with the Car Show. It is hoped that it can continue to be held in that location.

Meredith brought up the need for better publicity, especially to get listings in the Valley News Calendar. She added that Jim Bonner had been contacted twice for local TV coverage but had not covered any of the events. A suggestion was made that a three person marketing committee be established to develop a comprehensive marketing plan for OHD. Another suggestion was made to have someone act as a roving pollster, asking people where they were from, what they liked and did not like, etc. This is done successfully at the Sunapee Fair as a way of evaluating various events. In addition to evaluations, it was also suggested that a head count be taken at each event to determine success. Stephanie Hill suggested the possibility of creating a mission or focus statement for OHD as a way of keeping the committee focused on the direction Enfield OHD should be going. All agreed that we do not need to copy or emulate Canaan's Old Home Days. Meredith pointed out that Enfield is quite unique with its Shaker Heritage and that we should certainly include that in our focus and any marketing plan.

Meredith brought up the issue of printing the programs at the Town Hall, having spent two days at the town copier printing posters and program. She suggested they be printed at a commercial printing facility. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

All agreed there was a need for more volunteers. One need not be a member of the OHD committee (it could be considered a steering committee) but that each event needed volunteers assigned to it. Every committee member will be asked to assist in volunteer recruitment.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2. Alisa reminded the committee that as a town committee, we are now on a regular monthly meeting schedule. The August meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair

